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Caring for carers - the Open University's carer scholarship scheme

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How to cite:

Larkin, Mary (2019). Caring for carers - the Open University's carer scholarship scheme. The Open University.

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CARING FOR OUR CARERS

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Thank you to carers

Health and social care is **unsustainable without carers**

You save the UK **£132** billion a year
– **the cost of a second NHS**

Defining carers

A carer is anyone who **cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member** who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support
(*Carers Trust, 2017*)



The ever-increasing demand for carers

2001	2011	2019
2%	12%	15%

7.6 million people

in the UK are currently caring
(15% of the UK population)



3 in 5 / 60% of us

will be a carer at some
point in our lives



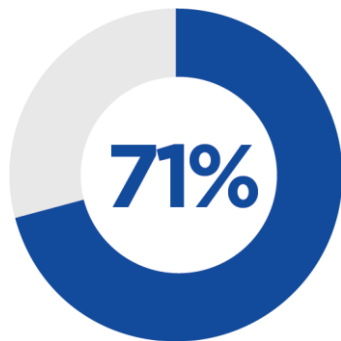
More and more people
are likely to care

**more than once
in their lifetime**

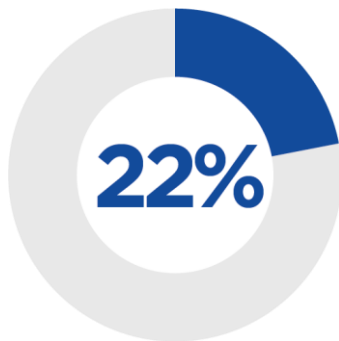
and be a sandwich carer

Carers and caring

Carers are often disadvantaged in health and wellbeing



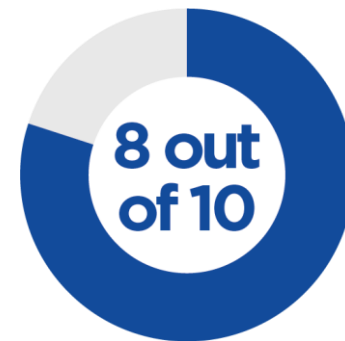
71% of carers have **poor physical or mental health**



22% **live in poverty**

Young adult carers (aged 14-25) have **lower GCSE attainment** and are **twice as likely as their peers to be NEET** (not in employment, education or training) for six months or more

Nearly half a million people (468,000) have given up work over the past two years as a result of caring



8 out of 10 have felt **lonely or socially isolated** as a result of their caring role

The demands on carers are likely to increase

- throughout its 50 years the OU has been committed to being **open, inclusive, ambitious and innovative**
- we really can make it possible to learn, **anytime, anywhere, despite the barriers of life or circumstances.**
- the OU has a **very strong commitment** to meeting carers' needs
- OU study **meets the needs of those who care**

OU Care and Caring Network

[Carer Research](#)

[Curriculum and Resources For Carers](#)

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OU Care and Caring Network

[OU Care and Caring Network](#)

Welcome to the Care and Caring Network@OU



"Changing demographics means that 3 in 5 of us will be a carer at some point in our lives – a figure that is predicted to increase. I am delighted that the Care and Caring network @OU has been set up within the Open University. We are the first University to have such a network and it shows our recognition of the needs of the growing number of our students and staff who are carers and the value of research in identifying effective interventions for carers. I fully support the endeavours of this unique and much needed network"

Dr Liz Marr, Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students)

Events

No events

[SEE ALL](#)

News

Older female workers and caring

This Guardian article will be of interest to some of you
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/oct/10/female-workers-twice-as-likely-to-be-informal-carers-ONS-report>

Your ideas are needed please!

The OU Carers Scholarships Fund

The first such scheme in the world to be developed

1. Will enable **carers of any age in any part of the UK to study towards any OU undergraduate or postgraduate qualification** up to a maximum value of £18,000 in an environment that offers them tailored support and a distinct understanding of their personal needs



50
YEARS



The OU Carers Scholarships Fund

The first such scheme in the world to be developed



2. Carefully developed in consultation with our partners

(Carers Trust and Carers UK) and our ambassadors (Dame Philippa Russell and Professor David Croisdale-Appleby) and has been **endorsed by the Department of Health and Social care**



The OU Carers Scholarships Fund

The first such scheme in the world to be developed

3. Examples of the **many benefits to carers:**

- give them a sense of identity outside of caring
- boost their confidence
- help them complete their education
- help them get back into education
- help them to retrain whilst caring so they can seek employment that is more compatible with their caring role
- help them to retrain whilst caring so they can seek new employment opportunities post-caring
- enable them to pursue an interest
- allow them to maintain their skills whilst caring
- improve their wellbeing

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YEARS

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